



A C T

Anent Murthering of CHILDREN.

July 19. 1690.

OUR SOVERAIGN LORD and LADY, the King and Queens Majesties, considering the frequent Murthers that have or may be committed upon innocent Infants, whose Mothers do conceal their being with Child, and do not call for necessary Assistance in the Birth, whereby the new born Child may be easily Stifled, or being left exposed in the Condition it comes to the World, it must quickly perish. For preventing whereof, Their Majesties with Advice and Consent of the Estates of Parliament, Do Statute, Enact and Declare, that if any Woman shall conceal her being with Child, during the whole space, and shall not call for, and make use of Help and Assistance in the Birth, the Child being found dead, or amissing, the Mother shall be holden and repute the Murtherer of her own Child : And Ordains all Criminal Judges to sustain such Process, and the Libel being remitted to the Knowledge of an Inquest, it shall be sufficient Ground for them to return their Verdict, finding the Libel proven, and the Mother guilty of Murther, tho there be no Appearance of Wound or Bruise upon the Body of the Child. And Ordains this Act to be Printed and Published at the Mercat-Crosses of the Head-Burghs of the several Shires, and to be read in all the Paroch Churches by the Reader of the Paroch.

E D I N B U R G H,

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